IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

The Troubles of the New Administration.

Probable Reconstruction of the Cabinet of Mr. Lincoln.

Appointment of Mr. Crittenden to the Supreme Court.

Kemination of Major Anderson as Brigadier General, vice Twiggs, Bemoved.

Important Speech of Mr. Douglas in the Senate.

He Views Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural as a Pacific Document.

The Army of Office Seekers at Washington.

The Commissioners from the South ern Confederacy.

List of Acts Passed by the Last

Ac. NOMINATION OF MR. CRITTENDEN TO THE SUPREME COURT.

ses premature. It is also said that the matter was fore a Senatorial caucus this evening, and that Sen Trumbull and other radicals strongly disfavor the nomi

Washington, March 6, 1861.
The commissions of the new Cabinet officers have been signed. Mr. Seward was the first to enter upon the duof his office at the State Department.

Mr. Seward already looks berne down by the weight of his responsibilities. He has a sad and thoughtful wuntenance, which is significant of serious impending woulde. He would urge masterly mactivity; but the rect trade to Southern ports, and a promising revenue while our Treasury wants the money. Seward, there will be compelled to act speedily for peace or war The Southern Commissioners will force this issue, to bring the border slave States to action, and a general convention on their part will soon be forced upon the

Mr. Chase did not signify his acceptance of the Trea ven o'clock last night he was still undecided, and to d his friends that he desired to consider the subject a with congratulating radicals, who had been greatly exer cised all night lest he should decline.

It was expected that Secretary Dix would vacate his office to-day, but at the request of his successor, Governor Chase, he helds over till to-morrow. When Mr. Dix entered upon his duties the Treasury was literally bankrupt There were requisitions on the table from the depart ments which there were no means of paying, exceeding \$1,000,000; flabing bounties unpaid, amounting to nearly \$150,000, and Treasury notes overdue, amounting to about Conterday the accounts were stated in expectation of ances in the hands of the Treasurer and disbursing officers applicable to the current expenses of the government, exceeding \$5,000,000. These, with the current receipts from the customs, amounting to about \$80,000 a day in coin, it is believed, will enable the incoming administration to

Cameron, it is reported, would rather withdraw the troops from Sumter and Pickens than plunge into a war to reinforce them. But Chase, Blair, Welles, Smith, and even Bates, are for strong measures. Before the end of upon a requisition from the Southern confederacy.

The new Secretery of State to-day informed the foreign understood they will be formally presented to him to morrow. The entire diplomatic corps are here.

The various ministerial advisers called spon the President, but business was not entered upon. A meeting for business will be held to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1861. The new Cabinet officers called at their several depart ments to-day. Mr. Seward entered fully upon his duties and his son was to-day nominated and confirmed by the tion made to-day, inasmuch as the committees, to which all nominations are usually referred, were not con-

The prompt commation of Mr. Seward's son, without reference, was intended as a compliment to Mr. Seward, who was so recently a member of the Senate.

Mr. Chase has sent his resignation as Senator to the Legislature of Chio, and will enter upon his duties to In the meantime General Dix will act, by request of Mr. Chase.

Mr. Cameron visited the War Department to-day, and was cordially received by Mr. Holt. The latter will continue to act as Secretary of War for a day or two, until Mr. Cameron goes to Pennsylvania and returns with

his family. He left this afternoon.

Mr. Welles visited the Navy Department to-day, and was received by his old partisan friend from Connecti

cut, Mr. Toucey, very kindly. Mr. Welles takes formal

Mr. Blair, of the Post Office Department, and Mr. Bates, as Attorney General, entered upon the performance of

It is due to Mr. Chase to state that he yielded his pre ferences for the Senate only to the most urgent and persistent appeals of radical leaders, who believed that he was wanted to prevent the centrel of the Cabinet by Seward, Cameron and Weed, and that the consolidation of the party and the success of the next administration depend on it. The fear of a partial distribution of the spoils doubtlessly also stimulated their efforts in bringing about his acceptance. I can state positively that his re-fuctance to accept was likewise due to a great extent to the distinctly expressed wish of Mr. Lincoln to pass ultimately upon the leading appointment, in the New York adelphia Post Offices and Custom Houses. Op dyko & Co. did not like this condition to the offer of the freasury to their man; but finally yielded the point, as Mr. Lincoln was inflexible.

that he will require all applications for office in his de-pertment to be endorsed by the members of congress from the respective districts, and that they will be held responsible for the appointments.

New Online No. March 6, 1861.

The opinion of leading men here is that Chase and Blair are the most objectionable men in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet. Great confidence is expressed that Mr. Seward, from his avowed opposition to coercion, will inaugurate a peace pelicy, drep his irrepressible conflict principles,

In the Convention, the resolutions introduced to-day, also that securing the public domain to the State, are not intended to throw obstacles in the way of the formation

tor Douglas in the Senate, and the declaration of John Bell to day that he should accept Mr. Lincoin's inaugural he meant otherwise, are received as good omens.

Mr. Douglas' speech to-day is regarded as carrying him band man at the inauguration, and Mrs. Lincoln's com quarters. Some say Douglas may yet be advanced to the Cabinet; for it is suspected that this one will soon fall to

Deuglas men hay popular sovereignty has been established in the three new Territories organized by the late Congress, and that Lincoln's inaugural opens the

Bell men, Douglas men and moderate republicans are

THE SOUTHERN COMMISSIONERS-PROS-PECT OF HOSTILITIES.

will soon be terminated, for it is well understood tha they will not be recognized by President Lincoln in any other light than as citizens of the United States. He will flatly refuse to enter into negotiation

a republican of a Southern Senator to-day. "Issue a preclamation to the Confederate States, and immediately

It was given out here by some of the knowing ones that Sumter and Pickens are to be immediately reinferred. This is a mistake. The new administration are not now going to act hastily. And what is more, Major Ancerson has requested, within the last four days, that forcements be sent to Fort Sumter. He will probably explain to the new Secretary of War in a few days

fore the next Cabinet meeting. The President desires it,

Messrs, Crawford, Forsyth and Roman, the Commis ton, and, it is said, will make known the object of th

PERPLEXITIES OF THE NEW ADMINISTRA-

Within the next forty-eight hours Mr. Lincoln, by Martin Crawford, of Georgia, and John Forsyth, of Alabama, special commissioners from President Davis and the Confederate States, and they will require a specific answer. They expect a flat refusal. They think it possible that they may be arrested as traitors; but they is

there will be peace; if repudiated, there will be war—and war, perhaps, within ten days. Southern men say we shall have, at all events, a practical interpretation of the mangural within forty-eight hours, and we expect war. prevailing apprehension here is war, and our

swarms of office seekers are accordingly struggling for The spectacle is shocking to behold. Scrator Bayard will introduce a resolution into the

ought to be withdrawn from the forts in the South, and that the Southern confederacy ought to be recognized, in

APPOINTMENTS UNDER THE NEW AD-MINISTRATIO.N.

Wassington, March 6, 1861.

The country will be glad to learn that President Lin-celn has nominated Hon. John J. Crittenden, of Kentucky, to the seat on the Supreme bench made vacant by the tate Judge Daniels.

The Fresident is about taking a step that is likely

to add immonsely to his popularity. He will to morrow send to the Senate the nomination of Major Anderson for the Brigadier Generalship lately held by Twiggs. His intention distinguish the gallant Major in so signal a manner be came known this afternson, and produced a thrill of de-light in all his friends that will doubtless be responded to throughout the Union. The promotion was formally suggested to him yesterday, but it is now known that he entempiated it ever since the dismissal of Twiggs. Seward strongly favored it, and Cameron gave that it must

to give way under the popular pressure for Anderson.

The Senate to-day unanimously confirmed the appoint ment of Fred. W. Seward as Assistant Secretary of State, to his father.

Prussis, as Minister to Berlin, and doomed Herman Kreisman, of Illinois, a German by birth, an abler man than Judd, and late clerk under Forney, to keep his compan as Secretary of Legation. These nominations, with that of John A. Kasson, of Desmoines, Iowa, for First Assistant Postmaster General, were sent to the Senate to-day; but as the committees were not framed to which they must be referred for investigation, they will be laid over They will not be acted upon until day after to-morrow, upless the Senate elect committees to morrow, in which case they will all be confirmed.

Judd's success is wrongly considered a great triumph mined upon until after a long consultation last night be tween the President and Judge Davis, the leader of the

Schurz is making vigorous strikes for the Turin mission. His high talents and thorough acquirements certainly qualify him as well as any other man for that post. But the oppo-sition to him from certain quarters will nevertheless and the fact that he is a refugee is also urged to his dis-

raging between the two Chicago organs, the Journal and Tribune, is transferred to Washington. Three editors of the Tribune are now here battling against the chief of the Journal. The prise of the struggle is the Chicago

President as First Assistant Postmaster General.
It is humiliating to see members of Congress, whose terms of office have just expired, putting themselves for-ward for positions under the new administration. There is scarcely a member but is an applicant. Pierce first initiated this miserable policy; Suchanan followed it to a certain extent, but it is hoped that Lincoln will avoid the fatal blunders of the last two administrations.

It is now understood that the Post Office in New York will go to the radicals, and the Custom House to the conservatives. In Philadelphia it will be vice cersa. Judge Kelly, of Philadelphia, was remarkably arduous in

It now looks as though the executive guillotine was to begin work at once, and not to stop until the democratic heads are all taken off. The more important appoint

The office seekers are exalted over the prospect of a speedy admission to the federal pickings. The New Yorkers especially are already complacently licking their

THE NEW YORK APPOINTMENTS.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1861 ceded to have the inside track for the collectorald; This has been secured by the triumph of Chase in ob

Webb heads the list. His main reliance for support is upon himself. Treasurer Dorabeimer is warmly pressed, merly member of Congress from Chenango, is also a stron

to be pressing for this place; but his Police Commissio ership record is against him. Camp, of Westche

the philesopher at Albany.

Of these three important offices, if Barney gets th

here to press Delafield Smith, and will through his influence for him. Channey Shaffer naking strong beadway against Smith, while these parties are pressing with great clamor. Van Vorst C. Nott is also asking for this place as a reward for his

For Marshal, all is in a muss. This is a rich pla good pay, little work and slight responsibility. This is

fere in any manner in the distribution of the spointin his State. This announcement has caused great conster-nation and dismay in certain quarters.

OPINIONS OF THE INAUGURAL.

Washington, March 6, 1861. Senator Douglas' speech to-day in the Senate upon Mr much commented on this evening. Wigfall will reply to it to morrow, and it is his intention to get an avowal from the republicans as to its true meaning. The debate will be an exciting one, and highly interesting, for he is determined to know whether it means peace or war.

The news from the South on the reception of the Pres

ent's inaugural is more favorable than was anticipated. Many Union men in Virginia are placed in the attitud of condemning the message, in order that they may be able to retain the control of the secession movement in

FORT SMITH, Ark., March 6, 1861. This city, heretofore strongly Union, has, since the re ception of Mr. Lincoln's inangural, quite reversed its po litical sentiments. Citizens consider it a declaration of war, and prominent men hitherto Union have advised members of the Convention to go for the secession ordi

At Lansing, on the receipt of the mangural of President Lincoln yesterday, the Legislature took a recess to bear it read, and 100 guns were fired in honor of the senti-

VISITS TO DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

and Mesers. Seward, Dix and Bates. General Scott mode

his specious parlers, and after a toast in Chlifornia Union speech, closing by the expression of the hope that Baker, Vice President Hamlin and Senator Johnson. Their visit to General Scott is deferred till to-morrow.

The delegations from Indiana and Maine severally paid their respects to the President this morning. In response to their greeting he made brief but evidently satisfacto

coin this morning.

Numerous other State delegations were engaged in visiting to-day. General Scott was called upon to make two speeches in the course of an hour and a half.

REPUBLICAN SENATORIAL CAUCUS.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1861. The republican Senators caucussed this morning, agree ably to adjournment. Senator Fessenden, chairman standing committees, reported them on the part of th republicans. The chairmen of the important commit-ters are as follows —Sumner, Foreign Affairs, Fessenden, Finance; Collamer, Post Office; King, Military Affairs Hale, Navy; Trumbull, Judiciary; Doolittle, Territories; Chandler, Commerce; Simmons, Patents; Clark, Claims Wilkinson, Indian Affairs; Anthony, Printing.

Mr. Summer and Mr. Seward were the only of the last Congress. The latter going into the Cabinet, leaves Mr. Bumner the only member of usually practised. He is probably one of the most ac-complished linguists in the United States, and his present relations with the foreign ministers are of the high est social order.

the Senate, by accepting the chairmanship of Finance, becomes the recognized leader of the Senate, the place just occupied by Mr. Hunter, of Virginia.

Mr. King steps into Jefferson Davis' shoes, and Hale akes Mallery's place.

The committees will be filled on the part of the demo-crats, and probably submitted to the Senate for election

MISCELLANEOUS WASHINGTON ITEMS. WARRINGTON, March 6, 1861. On or before the 4th of March Lieutenant-General

Scott and others received a telegraphic despatch, cau-tioning them to be on the look out for gunpowder plots at the Capitol. In consequence searches were dilizently made by the police at that building, to satisfy those who had ordered such an examination that there was no dan-

The Presidential relatives intend to make an excursion to Mount Vernon to-morrow morning. A number of ladies and gentlemen have been invited to accompany them. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln will receive the first forms call of the diplomatic corps at cleven A. M.

for the purpose of appearing before the Criminal Court to answer the indictment found against him in the mat-ter of the stolen bonds. His friends express the greatest confidence not only in his ability to establish his in-nocence, but in his power to divert all the blame for the

Mr. Holt, ex-Secretary of War, in a farewell speech to day, made a magnificent appeal to Patience, Peace and Compromise. He exhorted all to stand by the Union, and in patience seek redress from grievances within that

radical republicans, during the Breckinridge campaign, in uttering disunion sentiments, is trying to be retained, and has enlisted several outside parties to aid him.

Mrs. Lincoln continues to have a large number of callers, both ladies and gentlemen. She had an elegant reception between four and six this afternoon. To-morrow she will not receive, in consequence of having accepted an invitation from some of her intimate Illinois friends to

Mrs. Lincoln will give their dret public leves, which pro mises to be a brilliant affair.

from two to feur o'clock.

Frank P. Blatr, of Missouri; John Covode and Wr. Van

regard, recently major in the United States Engineer Corps, to proceed to Charleston at once and take com-

ation was far more orderly than the four preceding There were much less drunkenness and rowdy ism.

Mr. Spaulding, called on Mr. Blair this morning and laid ms to the Post Office in Buffalo before him. He was told that he could rest easy, as he would have the place. Clapp is happy, and will start home to morrow

A number of members of the late Congress left this city to day, among them ox-Senator Bigler, for Phila-

UNITED STATES SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1961. On motion of Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., two thou sand copies of the Tariff bill were ordered to be printed

Senate adjourn it be until Monday.

Mr. Huxres, (opp.) of Va., hoped the motion would not be carried, as he and others were anxious to get home, and, if possible, to start on Monday next.

Mr. Clingman, (opp.) of N. C., said that they could go on regularly, but that if business could not regularly be

Mr. Wison said he made his motion at the solicitation able to get through business.

Mr. Dixon, (rep.) of Conn., offered a resolution that

ted he preferred to adjourn until Monday.

Mr. Cunesian said, in voting for the resolution, he did not wish to be understood as endorsing the position of the inaugural, if he understood it correctly, for all in it clearly and directly, if carried out, would lead to a war against the Confederate States. The policy indicated was therefore unwise, and should be avoided. The President expressly declares that he intends to treat the States as if they were all in the Union, and regards the acts of accession as more milities. Certain States claim to be independent, and if the President acts as he counciates, there can be no result except collision between them and the federal government. It is plain and unistateable that he intends to hold, occupy and possess the forts, arcenais, &c., in those second States, when we know this can be done only by dispressesing the State authorities. The collection of the revenue therein must also lead to a collision of arms. After we declared our independence of forcal Britain no-body supposed the colonies would pay taxes. In fact, they refused to pay before their Declaration of Independence. He repeated, if the President's policy be carried out, there mu²t he vitably be war.

Sepator's remarks should go out unanswered. He had rend the inaugural carefully, with a view of understandtherein vindicated. It is characterized by great ability He had partially made an analysis, and had come to the conclusion that it was a peace rather than a war message. He had examined it candidly and critically, and On the contrary, there is a distinct pledge that the national difficulties. It is true, the President indicated a

certain line of policy, so to be conducted a to lead to a peaceful solution, by the two mot as explicit as the (Poughas) desired. He can be supported the provided from the hangural in explored the present them, saying, unless the manable furnished, the President estated where the saying them the manable furnished, the President is then of Congress giving him power to offere checked to them. The President must have been aware that it is a provided to them. The President must have been aware that it is a provided to them. The President must have been aware that it is a provided to them. The President must have been aware that it is a provided the had more power without than does. Ask the president of the leader of the first them to be understood that his act is dependent on the future course of Congress? He thought that was the proper construction of the leading and, for the President sayin—"His shail perform his duty so far as practically entered the contrary." The President fact the contrary." The President fact the contrary." The President fact the duties and imposite, but beyond what may be necessary for these objects there will be no invasion, no using of the president does not say be will take possession of the forty, but that he will had, occupy and possess them. This was equived language, but he did not condom the President does not say be will take possession of the President does not say be will take possession of the President does not say be will take possession of the President does not say be will take the duty of the President does not say be will take possession of the President does not say be will take possession of the president does not say be will take possession of the President does not say be will take possession of the President says. It is the duty of the President says in the says it is the duty of the President says in the says it is the duty of the President says in the says the course of the president says in the says the course of the president says in the president says in the says

change that instrument by express provision. Whalever departure Mr. Lincoth has made from his party platform about he taken as an set of patrotism, and not as a act of inductivy. If he understood him, Mr. Lincoth had sunk the partism to the patriot, and was entitled for this to the thanks of all conservative men. He did not want it to be inferred that he sympethized with the administration, or in any contingency that he and the friendent would be associated. He expected to oppose his administration on those great principles which separates the parties in former times; but un questions isoking to the preservation of the Union by peaceable means, and the settlement of the subject of shavery by amendment to the constitution, if he understeed the President's parties for the location in the theory are of the location. He believed the President is going to her up to it. He would not surrender this spinium until there should be reasons to change it. The Union cannot be preserved by war, cannot be maintained by bleed it can only be done by peaceable means, and future difficulties can be provented only by constitutional amendments to settle the slavery question by express provisions. These two remedies are clearly marked out by the President in his imaginal. He would ask the administration to live up to the line of policy here indicated. So far from taking any political advantage, he would commend the act as one of high patriotiem, while he dissented from the President, and would maintain his own expressition on all other questions.

Mr. Chanaan, in reply, said, on the main points of the inaugural there was no obscurity at all, for the President in any and the law, the Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability, I shall take care, as the constitution and the lawy, the Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability, I shall take care, as the constitution and the lawy, the Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability is what he says he will do in all the States. But the Senator from Illinois says if the

reposition.

Mr. Dergels explained that he did not say Mr. Lincoln would acquiesce, but that Mr. Lincoln would have no objection to the people amencing the constitution.

Mr. Chingham rejoining—The only effect is that Mr. Lincoln will not interfere to prevent the people from amending the constitution.

Mr. Dergels—He has declared he is in favor of the people doing it.

amending the constitution.

Mr. Dorolas—He has declared he is in favor of the people doing it.

Mr. Cliscanan resuming, asked how long would it take for them to amend the constitution? He believed it took several years at the commencement of this century, and did any man suppose such amendments could be made during the term of this administration? But here was a pressing emergency. As to the proposed amendment recently passed by Congress, would it be satisfactory to the South? The Senator from Illinois made a strong statement just before the close of Congress, while referring to the Senator from New York (Mr. Seward) and the republican party. He (Mr. Clingman) regarded it as foreible and true, for the Senator always spoke with great force and effect. That Senator, on the occasion referred to said—You offer to amend the constitution by declaring that no amendment shall be made empowering Congress to interfere with slavery in the States. If you had exhausted your ingenuity for increasing the apprehensions and infaming the passions of the South with a view of driving them into revolution, there was none better calculated to produce this result than this one to amend the constitution, rejecting all others which were infinitely more important to the slaveholding States. The Senator from illinois, as the effect of this language, says to the Fyesident, "by cening out for this amendment and rejecting all others, you are infining the passions of the South and in areasing their approbasions." If so, is that a pasific policy?

Mr. Dorolas would say now, if Mr. Lincoin had defeared for that amendment alone and against all others, he would have showed that he was not willing to give

Mr. Dovolas would say now, if Mr. Lincoin had declared for that amendment alone and against all others, he would have showed that he was not willing to give scorify to the South. He says he would not recommend it, but insemuch as another portion of the magneral covers the whole point and would give an express provision where there is none, be takes himself out of the casegory, inaspusch as the cresident covers the whole question in dispute he is not liable to the objection.

Mr. Worall, rising, and if the President nat put himself or sate ground he would, like the Souther natural in the case of the case ground he would, like the Southern and in consequence of Congress baving refused any and every other amendment except the one the Senator said would inflame the Southern mind, and then treated with utter contempt what is called the "Peace Conference propositions." Then what is called the

and their treated with atter contempt what is called the "Feace Conference propositions." Then what is called the "Feace Conference propositions." Then what is called the "Grittenden amendment" received only interteen votes in this body, which in the contemptation of law has saxty eight Senators on this floor. (He meant according to the Senator's construction.) While the amendment which was to inflame the Southern mind received twenty-four out of sixty-eight votes. The miserable concession that slavery shall not be abolished in therebere States received only twenty-four votes, and three-fourths of these Southern men and sound Northern democrate, and some not so essued.

Mr. Bouchas remarked that he was still approhensive that the rejection of the Crittenden and other amendments would have an unfavorable effect on the Southern mind. He regretted that a provision covering them could not be recurred. He, however, thought the assurances in the inaugural went far to restore confidence on that point. As to the Crittenden proposition receiving only 19 out of 68 votes, while it is true that the latter number is in the contemplation of the law, a large portion of the Senators were absent the did not hesitate to say if they had been present the vote would have been larger, for Mearns Bavis and Toombe, with others, were in layer of them. The proposed amendment adopted received two thirds of those present, and it would have been much larger if all hat been propent on that received.

adopted received two thirds of those present, and it would have been much larger if all had been present on that eccasion.

Mr. Cursonan resuming, said Mr. Lincoin recognizes one amendment, and none other. This science is significant. He knew that the Grittenden amendment has attracted more attention than any other, and that some of the State Legislatures planted themselves on it as an utimatum. When Mr. Lincoin recommends not one amendment, and not others, that is significant. He has ignored every amendment likely to give peace, not only the Crittenden, but the Peace Conference proposition, the laster get up and paraded here with great pemp. None of these things is recommended by Mr. Lincoin. Therefore he (Gingment) and the inaugural in liable to the construction Mr. houghas placed on Mr. Seward's remarks. Suppose the Crittenden proposition had received more than infedeux votes; the Senator from Illinois knew it could not have received two thirds of the Senate. The practical question as whall we have an effort to take the forts, and a collision and an attempt to collect the revenue, or not? It will not so to wait two or four years for a Convention to amend the constitution, if the President uses the power in the way he mentions we must have war. If he were a friend of the President he would advise him to withdraw the troops from Forts Sumter and Pickens. The only effect of keeping them there is to irritate the Southern Fintes. Will they allow the condition of things to continue notif Congress can be called together? He thought not. The best policy was to withdraw the troops and keep the reat to negotiation.

Mr. Daxon moved that the Senate go into executive sension.

Mr. Weekelt hoped not. While there seemed to be a

sension.

Mr. Wheratt hoped not. While there seemed to be a more imaginary difficulty in the country the inaugural had better be discussed. He desired to say a few words himself.

The Senate, by a vote of 22 against 12, went into executive session, and when the doors were again opened adjourned.

THE BUCHANAN CABINET TROUBLES.

SECRETARY THOMPSON AND SECRETARY HOLT.

To the Editors of the National Intellement.

In your issue of Saturday last you published an extract from an address recently made to the people of Mississippi by the Hon. Jacob Thompson, late Beoretary of the Interior, is which the following language occurs:

As I was writing my resignation I seet a despatch to Judge Longstreet that the Star of the West was coming with reinforcements. The troops were thus put on their guard, and when the Star of the West was coming only resigned on their guard, and when the Star of the West arms evided a warm welcome from bouning cannon, and soon beat a retreet. I was rejoiced that the concealed trick, first conceived by General Scott and adopted by Secretary Helt, but countermanded by the President when too late, proved a failure.

We have here a distinct and exultant avowal, on the part of the honorable Secretary, that, while yot a member of the Cabinet, he disclosed to those in open robelinon sgainst the United States information which he had derived from his official position, and which he held under the seals of a confidence that, from the beginning of our history as a nation, had never been violated. This step not merely endangered the highest public interests, but put is imminent jeopardy the lives of two hundred and fitty innocent men, who had never wronged the honorable Secretary, and who is proceeding to Charleston harbor were simply obeying the lawful command of their superior officers. The armed enemies of the government he was serving, under the solema sanctions of an oath, were, as he declares, "thus put upon their guard," and the frail vessel that offensive to the heart and to the inclligence of the American people to comment gravely on this humiliating transaction. Its true character has already bece determined by the public voice, and that voice will doubtless find its echo in the judgment of history.

The reference in the concluding sentonce of the paragraph is not to the reinforcement wh

complete by the Star of the West. This is described as in concealed trick, first conceived by deneral St. 4t., and acopted—of course with a knowledge of the character—by Secretary Holt," and the grapession, left open the mind of the reader with the country of the property of the course with a knowledge of the fresident has a water of the "trick" it was not designed to make the impression, then they are not designed to make the impression, then they amindershoot of the honorable Secretary would lose meat if not all 1 a point, as it was not contained purcose to charpen his consumer of General Scott and myself by leaving it to be inferred that our action had been without the sanction of the President, as the effect to reinforce Fort Sunter was the noon responsible act of the War Department derion my brief connection with its administration, it is one as the to the public and to my own reputation that the calimnions incustion cast upon it by the paragraph quoted should be prempth met and refuted. That refutation will be furnished by the following correspondence.

enistaken. Yours, very respectfully,

Hon. Jacob Thompson.

Nothing can be added to the force and distinctness of the testimenty thus borne by the President and the four oldest members of his Cabinet. So far from the movement for the reinforcement of Fort Sumter having been a "concealed trick," it was repeatedly and frankly discussed in the Cabinet, and when a conclusion was finally reached the resolution of the President was announced in terms as emphatic as he probably ever addressed to one of his Secretaries. "It is now all over, and reinforcements must be sent," was his innguage; and those words were spoken in open council, the honorable Secretary of the Interior himself being present. It was in strict acsordance with the command thus given that the Star of the West was chartered and the reinforcements sent forward. In all these circumstances the public will look in vain for any traces of "trick" on the part of Gen. Scott or of the Secretary of War. It is true that in the hope of avoiding a waste of human life, an endeavor was made to "conceal" the expedition from the heattle troops in charge of the forts and batteries in Charleston harbor; but this endeavor the zeal and vigilance of the Secretary defeared.

The "countermand" spoken of was not more over the life, the experienced.

but this endeavor the zeal and vigilance of the Secretary's defeated.

The "countermand" spoken of was not more our dully sanstioned by the President than it was by General Scott and myself. It was given, not because of any dissent from the order on the part of the President, but because of a letter received that day from Major Anderson, stating, in effect, that he regarded himself as secure in his position, and yet more because of intelligence which late on Saturday evening reached the department that a heavy battery had been erected among the sand hills at the entraode to Charleston burber, which would probably destroy any any armed versel (and such was the star of the Weat) which might attempt to make its way up to Fort sumter. This important information satisfied the government that there was no present necessity for sensing reinforcement, and that when sent they should go, not in a vessel of comperce, but of war. Hence the countermand was despatched by telegraph to New York, but the vessel had sailed a short time before it reached the effect to whom it was addressed.

sent or of any other assainate.

It is well known that a persistent falsification of the policy and conduct of the late acomingstration, in its relations to the South, has proved a potent instrumentality for inflaming the popular mind of that distracted portion of our country, and thus giving an ever increasing impetus to the revolution; and the fact, that the telegraph and the press have been under the absolute direction of those controlling this movement has rendered resistance to this instrumentality impracticable. Whatever purposes, therefore, were expected to be accomplished by the circulation of the paragraph which has been exposed, will probably be attained, since the antidate now offered cannot possibly pursue the poleon into all its ramifications. If, however, this explanation shall secure to me the confidence of these true hearted patriots who still love our Union better than all the spoils and power which revolution can promise, then I shall little regard the condemnation of men who for the last two months have increasing den nead motheroughout the South, simply and sololy because I have refused to blacken my soul with perjury by netraying the government of my country while in its service.

J. HOLT.

THE WORK OF CONGRESS.

The second session of the Thirty eixth Congress, the wilstand recorded as presenting the most remarkable phase in the history of the legislation of the United States. When it opened the thirty-three States of the then existing confederacy were represented by their re-spectively elected delegates; when it expired, not only lid the Hall of Representatives present forty-three vacant seats, and that of the Senate twelve, but, more deplorable still, six States of the Union represented by the absentees had thrown off all connection with the federal Union and declared their indepen-dence perpetual. When the seasion opened men's minds were perturbed with anticipations of State Conventions, threatened ordinances of seconsion and the attitude of stern indifference to the business of Congress from the first assumed by the members from those States which were deemed most likely to verify the predictions of their representatives during the stormy debates of the provious session. The event then indicated as that which would be the signal for a disruption of the ties which bound the Southern States to the Union had been accomplished. The warnings, Cussandra like, had passed unheeded until it was too late to recall the past or to

The withdrawal of six States of course had a materia offect upon the amount of business coming before On-gress. While it added to the importance and gravity of some of the measures to be discussed, it lessened very considerably the number of bills to be disposed of. The following is a correct list of the public and private bills

Bill making an appropriation for the payment of th Bill making an appropriation for the payment of an expenses incurred by the pupil of the Territories of Oregon and Washington in the suppression of Indian hostilities therein in the years 1856 and 1856. [Approve not sent in March 2, but believed to be approved by the President.)
2. Bill for the relief of Simon de Visser and Jose Vil

President.]
2. Bull for the relief of Simon de Vieser and Jone Villambra, of New Orleans.
3. Bill for the relief of Richard Chenery.
4. Bill for the relief of Aaron H. Pahmer.
6. Bull for the relief of John Peobles.
6. Bull for the relief of John Peobles.
7. Bull for the relief of Randall Pegg.
8. Bull for the relief of Angustus H. Evans.
9. Bull for the relief of Annie D. Reeves.
10. Bill for the relief of Laura C. Humber, widow of Charles H. Humber.
11. Bull for the relief of Mary K. Guthrie, widow of Besley N. Guthrie.
12. Bull for the relief of Townsend Harris, or his heirs or legal representatives.
13. Bull for the relief of Mary Walbach, widow of the late Brevet Brigadier General John De B. Walbach, United States Army.

late Brevet Brigadier General John De D.

14. Bill to provide for a temporary government for the
Territory of Colorado.

15. An act to provide a temporary government for the
Territory of Dacotah, and to create the office of flurveyor
General therein.

16. Bill to change the name of the schooner Augusta to
Col. Cook.

17. Bill to carry into effect conventions between the
(CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE)